

leader our country has ever produced. And my home State of Kentucky has a front-row seat in the celebration.

Abraham Lincoln was born February 12, 1809, in a log cabin 3 miles south of Hodgenville, KY. The one-room cabin measured 16 by 18 feet, had a dirt floor, and no glass in the windows.

The future President was born with no advantages in life except for a strong curiosity and a sterling character. By the end of his life, this man of humble background had united our country by demonstrating leadership during America's time of greatest crisis, and he showed our country the true value of the Declaration of Independence by asserting that there must be no exceptions to the ideal that all men are created equal.

Two centuries later, America looks back with gratitude at our 16th President by celebrating the Lincoln Bicentennial. The Commonwealth of Kentucky can take special pride in the fact that Lincoln was one of our own, and the Lincoln Bicentennial's opening ceremonies will take place in Hodgenville. So begins a 2-year event celebrating the great emancipator's life and legacy. All across the country, from the State capital in Springfield, IL, where Lincoln served as a legislator, to here in Washington, DC, where Lincoln served as a wartime Commander in Chief, Americans will celebrate this important figure in our national story.

This time will be exciting for teachers, students, and any adult who loves American history. I know Kentucky's friendly neighbors to the north in Illinois often claim Lincoln as their own. Their license plates even say so. But Lincoln was born and spent his formative years in Kentucky, which surely must have shaped the man he became, and he would never have denied his Kentuckian heritage.

In fact, in 1861, as he traveled east to Washington to begin his term as President, Lincoln wrote a speech that he intended to deliver in Kentucky but never got a chance to do. In it, he crafted these words: "Gentlemen, I too, am a Kentuckian."

So it is appropriate that the Lincoln Bicentennial celebration begins in the same State that the man himself did. I hope every Kentuckian and every American will take advantage of this opportunity to explore this exciting chapter in American history.

I yield the floor.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE ACT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the order before the Senate allows me and the Republican leader 10 minutes any time during this debate to make a presentation. I will do that later. I do want to say, based on the remarks of the distinguished Republican leader, I, too, appreciate the work of Senator ROCKEFELLER and Senator BOND, but I also appreciate the work done by the Judi-

ciary Committee and Senator LEAHY. As a result of that work, the bill has already been made better and, hopefully, we can adopt some of these amendments today.

We, for example, have as a result of the work done by the Judiciary Committee a compromise reached on a number of amendments that have made this bill better, including a Feingold amendment providing Congress with FISA Court documents that will facilitate congressional oversight and enable Congress to better understand the court's interpretation of the laws we passed; a Whitehouse amendment giving the FISA Court the discretion to stay lower FISA Court decisions pending appeal rather than requiring a stay; a Kennedy amendment providing that under the new authority provided by this bill the Government may not intentionally acquire communications when it knows ahead of time that the sender and all intended recipients are in the United States.

The bill has been made better. The bill that Senator ROCKEFELLER and Senator BOND did is not a bill that is perfect in nature, and I hope they will acknowledge that point. The bill has been made better as a result of work done by the Judiciary Committee. We have members of the Intelligence Committee who also serve on the Judiciary Committee. Two who come to my mind are Senator FEINSTEIN and Senator WHITEHOUSE. They have worked very hard in the Intelligence Committee and the Judiciary Committee to improve this legislation.

We should understand where we are. We are now doing different wiretaps, and I think the situation today that is so concerning to most of us is the President has been advised by his lawyers that he does not have to follow the law anyway. Whatever we do here, he has been told by his lawyers that he need not follow the law. He can do whatever he wants; he is the boss; he is someone who does not have to follow the law, does not even have to give a signing statement saying he rejects it. He can just go ahead and do it.

I do not think this should be a day of celebration. This should be a day of concern for the American people. I am very happy we have been able to improve the product that came out of the Intelligence Committee. Hopefully, by the voting today we can improve it more.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

FISA AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2007

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 2248, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2248) to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978, to mod-

ernize and streamline the provisions of that act, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Rockefeller/Bond amendment No. 3911, in the nature of a substitute.

Whitehouse amendment No. 3920 (to amendment No. 3911), to provide procedures for compliance reviews.

Feingold amendment No. 3979 (to amendment No. 3911), to provide safeguards for communications involving persons inside the United States.

Feingold/Dodd amendment No. 3912 (to amendment No. 3911), to modify the requirements for certifications made prior to the initiation of certain acquisitions.

Dodd amendment No. 3907 (to amendment No. 3911), to strike the provisions providing immunity from civil liability to electronic communication service providers for certain assistance provided to the Government.

Bond/Rockefeller modified amendment No. 3938 (to amendment No. 3911), to include prohibitions on the international proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978.

Feinstein amendment No. 3910 (to amendment No. 3911), to provide a statement of the exclusive means by which electronic surveillance and interception of certain communications may be conducted.

Feinstein amendment No. 3919 (to amendment No. 3911), to provide for the review of certifications by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court.

Specter/Whitehouse amendment No. 3927 (to amendment No. 3911), to provide for the substitution of the United States in certain civil actions.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. I say to the Presiding Officer, it is my understanding that the first amendment is minimization compliance review by Senator WHITEHOUSE.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, first of all, we thank all our colleagues for coming to this point where we can have votes and finally get this bill out, which we started in December. It is a very important bill. We have worked together on a bipartisan basis and resolved almost all issues.

The amendment offered by our colleague from Rhode Island has been modified in a way that I believe improves it, makes it effective, makes it work for the intelligence community, and achieves the very important goals that the Senator from Rhode Island has sought to achieve.

I ask that I be added as a cosponsor to this modified amendment. I believe, Mr. President, we can accept it by voice vote.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I simply would also like to be added as a cosponsor, and I congratulate Senator WHITEHOUSE, Senator BOND, and others for doing an outstanding piece of work in resolving the differences on this extremely important enforcement mechanism.

AMENDMENT NO. 3920, AS MODIFIED

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I have at the desk a modification to amendment No. 3920.